

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A retaining member for holding and supporting an elongated element from a support, said retaining member comprising:

a base portion attachable to the support; and

a holding portion connected to said base portion and comprising a recess for holding the elongated element therein, said recess comprising:

a tubular portion; and

a plurality of spaced ribs extending radially inwardly from said tubular portion to have different radial heights,

wherein:

said ribs comprise at least one first rib having a first radial height and a plurality of second ribs having a second radial height smaller than the first radial height;

said holding portion further comprises an elongated slot for allowing insertion of the elongated element into said recess via said elongated slot; and

said elongated slot has opposite elongated edges extending in an axial direction of said tubular portion and said first rib is spaced, in a circumferential direction of said tubular portion, from each of the edges of said elongated slot by at least one of said second ribs; and

further comprising a further holding portion connected to said base portion and comprising a further recess for holding another elongated element therein, said further recess having a smooth inner surface free of ribs or teeth; and

wherein said holding portions are positioned on opposite sides of said base portion.

2-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ribs are elongated in a circumferential direction of said tubular portion.

13. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claimed in claim 12, wherein said base portion is made of a harder plastic material and said ribs and said tubular portion are made of a softer plastic material.

14. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claimed in claim 12, wherein said elongated ribs describe circular or helical curves.

15. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claimed in claim 12, wherein said ribs are disposed at a uniform spacing in an axial direction of said tubular portion.

16. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claimed in claim 12, wherein said ribs include first ribs having a greater radial height and second ribs having a smaller radial height, and wherein said first and second ribs are alternately arranged in an axial direction of said tubular portion.

17. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claimed in claim 12, wherein said ribs include first ribs having a first radial height and second ribs having a second radial height smaller than the first radial height, and wherein a first width of said first ribs at tops thereof is smaller than a second width of said second ribs at tops thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claim in claim 17, wherein the first radial height of said first ribs is greater than the first width at the tops of said first ribs.

19. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claimed in claim 17, wherein the second radial height of said second ribs is smaller than the second width at the tops of said second ribs.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The retaining member as claimed in claim [[20]] 1, wherein said first and second ribs are elongated in the axial direction of said tubular portion, and alternately arranged in the circumferential direction of said tubular portion with a uniform spacing.

23. (Currently amended) The retaining member as claimed in claim [[20]] 1, wherein said first and second ribs are elongated in the axial direction of said tubular portion and alternately arranged in the circumferential direction of said tubular portion, and wherein said alternately arranged ribs include at least three said first ribs and at least three said second ribs.

24. (Currently amended) The retaining member as claimed in claim [[20]] 1, wherein said holding portion includes at least three said first ribs two of which are arranged along the edges of said slot.

25. (Currently amended) The retaining member as claimed in claim [[20]] 1, wherein a first width of said first rib at a top thereof is smaller than a second width of said second ribs at tops thereof.

26. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claim in claim 25, wherein the first radial height of said first rib is greater than the first width at the top of said first rib.

27. (Previously presented) The retaining member as claimed in claim 25, wherein the second radial height of said second ribs is smaller than the second width at the tops of said second ribs.

28. (Currently amended) The retaining member as claimed in claim [[20]] 1, wherein a top of said first rib describes a convex curve and tops of said second ribs describe concave curves.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) A retaining member for holding and supporting an elongated element from a support, said retaining member comprising:

a base portion attachable to the support; and

a holding portion connected to said base portion and comprising a recess for holding the elongated element therein, said recess comprising:

a tubular portion; and

a plurality of spaced ribs extending radially inwardly from said tubular portion to have different radial heights, wherein

said ribs comprise at least one first rib having a first radial height and a plurality of second ribs having a second radial height smaller than the first radial height;

said holding portion further comprises an elongated slot for allowing insertion of the elongated element into said recess via said elongated slot;

said elongated slot has opposite elongated edges extending in an axial direction of said tubular portion and said first rib is spaced, in a circumferential direction of said tubular

portion, from each of the edges of said elongated slot by at least one of said second ribs;
and

said base portion is made of a harder plastic material and said first and second ribs are made of a softer plastic material; and

further comprising a resilient contact element adapted to bear against a surface of the support when said base position is attached to the support, said resilient contact element being made from the same plastic material as said first and second ribs.

31. (Previously presented) In combination,

an elongated element; and

a retaining member for holding and supporting said elongated element from a support, said retaining member comprising:

a base portion attachable to the support; and

a holding portion connected to said base portion and comprising a recess holding the elongated element therein, said recess comprising:

a tubular portion; and

a plurality of spaced ribs extending radially inwardly from said tubular portion, said ribs including at least a first rib having a first radial height and at least a second rib having a second radial height smaller than the first radial height;

wherein said elongated element is resiliently supported in said recess by said first rib to be radially spaced from said second rib and said tubular portion, said first rib being elastically deformable to allow said elongated element to come to rest on said second rib without allowing said elongated element to contact said tubular portion and said base portion; and further comprising:

a support to which said base portion is attached; and

a resilient contact element that bears against the support and spaces said base portion from said support;

wherein said base portion is made of a harder plastic material whereas said first and second ribs, said tubular portion and said resilient contact element are made of a softer plastic material.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) A retaining member comprising:

a base portion attachable to a support;

a first clamping member connected to the base portion and comprising an elastically expandable cup having a single curved wall and an insertion slot adapted to have a first elongated element inserted therethrough;

~~a line-seating~~ an injected molded non-rigid plastic lining disposed in-injected molded into direct contact with the single curved wall of the expandable cup and configured to assume the shape of the cup and to receive the elongated element therein, the ~~line-seating lining~~ comprising:

a plurality of first and a plurality of second spaced ribs extending radially inwardly from the ~~line-seating lining~~, each of the first plurality of ribs being arranged beside one of the plurality of second spaced ribs, each of the plurality of first ribs being longer and thinner than each of the plurality of second ribs and having a greater overhang than each of the plurality of second ribs, whereby each of the first plurality of ribs extends further toward a center of the line-seating lining than each of the plurality of second ribs, each of the plurality of first ribs being configured to have a lower spring constant, to be more sensitive to mechanical loads and exhibit a smaller self-centering action than each of the second plurality of ribs.

34. (Currently amended) A retaining member as claimed in claim 33, wherein the clamping member is made of a rigid material ~~and the line-seating comprises a lining made of a non-rigid material.~~

35. (Currently amended) A retaining member as claimed in claim 33, wherein the first plurality of ribs are each longer and narrower than the second plurality of ribs and configured to be deflected during the insertion of the elongated element into the ~~line-seating~~ lining to the degree they bear, at least temporarily, on the second plurality of ribs.

36. (Previously presented) A retaining member as claimed in claim 33, wherein at least the deflection of the plurality of first ribs provides an acoustical isolation effect between the elongate element and the support.

37. (Previously presented) A retaining member as claimed in claim 33, wherein in the case of a force being exerted by the elongate element on the plurality of first ribs and the plurality of second ribs, the plurality of second ribs are configured to be deflected to a lesser degree than the plurality of first ribs and therefore absorb a larger amount of the force than the plurality of first ribs.

38. (Previously presented) A retaining member as claimed in claim 33, wherein the plurality of second ribs are configured to act as rigid stops.

39. (Previously presented) A retaining member as claimed in claim 33, further comprising a second clamping member comprising an unlined expandable cup having a smooth inner surface, an insertion slot adapted to have a second elongated element inserted therethrough, and a clamping tongue arranged within the unlined expandable cup.